

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 9 and 15 are amended.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102(e)

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Langford (US 6,266,420). In response, claims 1, 9 and 15 are amended to clearly distinguish over Langford.

Independent claim 1 is amended to recite:

...(b) encrypting the session key by utilizing each of common keys which have been determined to the respective destinations, wherein each common key is generated by utilizing a public key and a secret key...

Claims 9 and 15 are amended in similar fashion. As described at paragraph [0054] of applicant's specification, the common key is generated by utilizing the public key generated based on the email address and the secret key PRK1 stored in the hard disk 4 (S107).

Langford does not disclose or suggest encrypting a session key with a common key generated by utilizing a public key and a secret key. At column 3, lines 20-22, Langford discloses use of a recipient list 14 to obtain a group public encryption key, which is used to create a wrapped session key, however, Langford does not disclose or suggest that this recipient list 14 is used in conjunction with a secret key to generate a common key for encrypting a session key.

Since Langford does not disclose each and every feature of claims 1, 9 and 15, as amended, or claims 2-8, 10-14 and 16-20 dependent thereon, it cannot anticipate those claims. The rejections under 35 USC 102(e) should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

This application is now believed to be in form for allowance. The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of

Appl. No. 10/057,111
Amdt. dated December 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of September 27, 2005

Atty. Ref. 81800.0180
Customer No. 26021

this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: December 19, 2005

By: 

Troy M. Schmelzer
Registration No. 36,667
Attorney for Applicant(s)

500 South Grand Avenue, Suite 1900
Los Angeles, California 90071
Phone: 213-337-6700
Fax: 213-337-6701